Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
   L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
   OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /078 W
            ------------------039325 131115Z /14
R 130857Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1205
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3535

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI CONCERN RE IRANIAN DISTURBANCES

REF: (A) MANAMA 1263 (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 5451 (NOTAL).

1. IN MY LAST TWO CALLS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, MIDDLE LEVEL MFA
OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN
OVER POSSIBLE INSTABILITY IN IRAN AND TO SEEK USG ASSESSMENT
OF THAT SITUATION. BOTH OFFICERS HAVE APPROACHED SUBJECT
CASUALLY SAYING THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING IT AMONG THEIR
FRIENDS, BUT IT IS MOST UNUSUAL FOR THESE MEN TO VOLUNTEER
SUCH EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN. IT CAN ONLY BE TRUE THAT MFA
AND KUWAITIS GENERALLY ARE DEEPLY WORRIED THAT THE CON-
SERVATIVE IRANIAN REGIME THEY HAVE LONG TAKEN FOR GRANTED,
AS A MAJOR FORCE FOR STABILITY IN THE AREA, MAY HAVE BECOME SHAKY.

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2. NEITHER MFA OFFICER WOULD OFFER ANALYSIS OR PROGNOSIS OF
INTERNAL IRANIAN SCENE, ALTHOUGH KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO
TEHRAN HAS BEEN HERE ON CONSULTATIONS ABOUT TWO WEEKS NOW.

3. ACTING HEAD OF ARAB AFFAIRS DIVISION JUNE 12 OPINED
TO ME THAT THE DANGER IN IRAN LIES IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT
SOMEONE WOULD EMULATE THOSE WHO STAGED THE COUP D'ETAT

IN KABUL. HE GRANTED THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IN IRAN ARE
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN PRE-COUP AFGHANISTAN,
BUT SAID THE EXAMPLE OF WHAT HE CALLED A COMMUNIST
COUP COULD ITSELF CAUSE DANGEROUS REPERCUSSIONS.

4. I HAVE REPLIED TO THEIR QUESTIONS BRIEFLY, DISCLAIMING
DETAILED INSIGHT INTO IRANIAN PROBLEMS AND STATING THAT
USG DOES NOT BELIEVE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN IRAN ARE A
BASIC THREAT TO STABILITY OF SHAH'S REGIME.
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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